

Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2012–2013



JIM BATHERT

Mallard



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What’s New in 2012–2013?

- Hunters now may harvest up to four scaup daily. (The daily limit was two scaup during the 2011–2012 season.)
- The Middle Zone Youth Waterfowl Season will open one week before the regular Middle Zone season.
- Hunters wishing to reserve a Conservation Department disabled-accessible blind must present a Hunting Method Exemption at the time of check-in. See Page 16.
- Grand Pass, Eagle Bluffs and Otter Slough conservation areas will continue using the Quick Draw system to award hunting spots. See Page 16.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Wildlife Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Wildlife Code* violations is explained at mdc.mo.gov/node/16861.



CLIFF WHITE

Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and more places to hunt than ever. Waterfowlers can hunt eight straight months beginning with teal season in September and concluding with the end of the Light Goose Conservation Order in April.

In the past 25 years, federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and concerned citizens have restored more than 30,000 acres of public wetlands and more than 120,000 acres of private wetlands—a small portion of the 87 percent of wetlands lost in Missouri. Because of these efforts, today's waterfowlers can hunt such varied habitats as shallow-flooded wetlands, flooded crop fields, dry crop fields, flooded timber, rivers, ponds and reservoirs.

2012–2013 Waterfowl Hunting Outlook

Despite record-high waterfowl populations, hunter expectations should be tempered due to impacts from a historical drought. In nearly 80 years, Missouri has not experienced the length and severity of drought and heat that was experienced from May to August this year. Throughout the state, drought limited crop production and natural food production. Without significant precipitation, naturally flooded wetlands will be scarce, and pumping capabilities will be limited on many public and private wetlands. Duck hunting could improve dramatically, however, if Missouri receives adequate rain this fall.

Canada goose hunters should keep an eye on weather to the north. Severe winter conditions will spur migrations of Canada geese into Missouri. Although snow geese continue to be abundant, fewer young in the population this year could result in more difficult hunting.

Status of Habitat on the Breeding Grounds

Although the breeding grounds were somewhat drier in 2012 than during the exceptionally wet spring of 2011, ducks continued to have fair to good nesting habitat throughout much of their breeding range. Wetland numbers were down 32 percent from 2011, but remained 9 percent above the long-term average. The number of wetlands in Prairie Canada remained 13 percent above the long-term average, while the number of wetlands in the north-central United States dropped to levels similar to the long-term average. Brood-rearing habitat remained good, but smaller wetlands were drying in late summer, especially in the north-central United States. Overall, the stage is set for good duck production in 2012.

Duck Status

This year's estimate of 48.6 million ducks is 7 percent above the 2011 estimate and 43 percent above the long-term average. In fact, for the second year in a row, this year's estimate is the highest since surveys began in 1955.

- Mallard numbers are 15 percent higher than 2011 and 40 percent higher than their long-term average.
- Blue-winged teal and shovelers are at record highs and are 94 and 111 percent, respectively, above their long-term averages.
- Green-winged teal rebounded from a decline in their numbers in 2010 and are now 74 percent above their long-term average.
- Gadwalls and redheads are at near-record levels with their populations 96 and 89 percent above their long-term averages.
- Scaup numbers increased 21 percent above the 2011 estimate and are similar to their long-term average.
- Pintail numbers decreased 22 percent from 2011 and are now 14 percent below their long-term average.
- Wigeon numbers are similar to 2011 and are 17 percent below their long-term average.

Adaptive Harvest Management

The federal Adaptive Harvest Management Program provides for a 60-day season with a six-duck daily bag limit in 2012–2013 for the 16th consecutive year. Each year's regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days) and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to:

www.flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management

Long-Term Concerns about Waterfowl Habitat

Despite unprecedented numbers of waterfowl, biologists and managers are concerned about long-term prospects. In 2012, the United States, Canada and Mexico revised the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to become more responsive to the accelerated pace and magnitude of land-use and ecosystem changes. While scientists continue to identify potential impacts of climate change on waterfowl populations, biologists already recognize threats posed by current land-use changes. In Canada, wetlands have minimal protection and continue to be drained. In the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States, there is a rapid loss and degradation of habitat due to a reduction of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the conversion of native grasslands to croplands, and increased draining of wetlands. For example, CRP acres in North Dakota declined from 3.4 million in 2007 to 2.4 million in 2012. Based on the latest CRP enrollment, North Dakota is expected to lose an additional 650,000 acres.

Waterfowl populations will always fluctuate as wetlands cycle through wet and dry periods. But the ability of waterfowl to rebound from population declines during dry years depends on quality habitat being available during wet years. Without addressing the increasing pace and magnitude of land-use and ecosystem changes, it's uncertain how long we will be able to sustain the level of waterfowl populations and hunting opportunity we have enjoyed during the past decade.

Duck Hunters Help Establish Missouri's Duck Seasons

Every five years, the Conservation Department conducts an extensive review of hunter preferences regarding zone boundaries and season dates. The last review occurred in 2011; the next is scheduled for 2015. In 2011, the Department contacted 10,000 migratory bird permit holders to complete an in-depth opinion survey and hosted 16 workshops attended by more than 300 people. Based on this hunter input, the Department developed formulas to set season dates and modified the South Zone boundary in two locations. Prior to the next major review in 2015, the Department will continue to track changes in harvest, hunter participation, hunter satisfaction and season timing preferences through annual hunter surveys. By limiting changes to every five years, the Department hopes to avoid reacting to single-year events and allow hunters time to experience existing zones and season dates under a variety of weather conditions.

Duck Season Date Formulas

Missouri's duck season opening dates are set according to the formulas listed in the table below. This allows hunters to make plans further in advance. Previously, hunters had to wait until late August to find out the timing of duck season. Now, hunters can determine season dates in late July, as soon as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces whether the upcoming season will be liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days) or restrictive (30 days).

Duck Season Opening Dates			
Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	Last Saturday in October	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November
Middle	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November	3rd Saturday in November
South	Thanksgiving Day	1st Saturday in December	2nd Saturday in December

Hunters' Opinions About Split Seasons

In late 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered states two additional waterfowl season options: four hunting zones with no split season and three hunting zones with a split season. (A split season opens for an initial segment, closes for a period, then reopens for a second segment.) Missouri hunters expressed little interest in adding a fourth hunting zone, and surveys indicated that hunters had different opinions about if and when a split should occur.

In the North and Middle zones, approximately 40 percent of hunters preferred a continuous season as in years past. In both zones, a split season that closed during the first week of the firearms deer season was the second most popular option, preferred by 21 and 30 percent of North Zone and Middle Zone hunters respectively. In the South Zone, 49 percent of hunters preferred a split season that was open during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday, closed for a period of time, and then reopened to run as late as the federal framework would allow. Fifty-one percent of South Zone hunters, however, preferred season dates similar to previous years or a split season that would provide even earlier hunting opportunities.

Given the lack of consensus for when a split season should occur, the option most favored by hunters was to maintain the current, continuous-season date formulas established in 2011.

Scaup Bag Limit Increases to Four

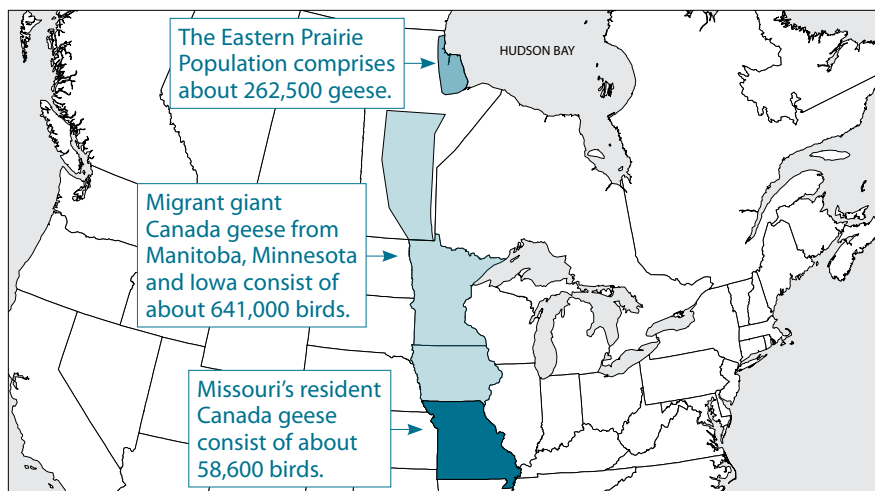
Healthy scaup populations have resulted in a daily bag limit increase from two to four. This marks the first year since 1998 the scaup bag limit will be more than three birds. This year's population estimate of 5.2 million was the highest scaup estimate since 1991. Scaup are an early season migrant through Missouri. In 2011, approximately 2,000 scaup were harvested in the state.

Canada Geese in Missouri

Three populations of Canada geese occur in Missouri during the fall and winter:

- Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese nest along Hudson Bay.
- Migrant giant Canada geese nest in Manitoba, Minnesota and Iowa.
- Resident giant Canada geese live in Missouri year-round.

Giant Canada geese migrating from Manitoba, Minnesota and Iowa make up the largest portion (about 40 percent) of Missouri's harvest each year. Giant Canada goose populations from areas north of Missouri continue to grow, and production in 2012 is expected to be above average. Roughly 25 percent of Missouri's harvest is made up of EPP Canada geese, and their population numbers are lower than in recent years. About 30 percent of Missouri's harvest is made up of Missouri's resident giant Canada geese. Although commonly seen, Missouri's resident goose population is small compared to populations in other states. For example, Missouri's spring 2012 estimate of 58,600 breeding geese was nearly seven times smaller than Minnesota's estimate of 434,000. After reaching a peak population of 77,000 in 2000, Missouri's resident population has been stable at about 55,000, and this year production was average. Each population must be considered when setting season regulations in Missouri.





Canada geese

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Missouri's Canada Goose Season

Missouri's Canada goose season structure provides easy-to-follow regulations, more days of hunting and larger bag limits than offered in recent history. Hunters who like to stretch out their waterfowl season can take advantage of the early Canada goose season. Hunters who enjoy combining duck and goose hunting can take advantage of concurrent seasons in December and early January. Late-season hunting is provided by a season that remains open through Jan. 31—as late as the federal framework allows. At one time, Canada goose hunters had to keep track of season dates for three segments within five different zones and bag limits that differed among season segments. Now, Missouri has a statewide season consisting of only two segments with the same daily bag limit throughout.

Support Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation

Help ensure abundant waterfowl, healthy wetlands and a thriving waterfowl hunting tradition exist for future generations. Join a conservation organization to work with other hunters and conservationists. Consider buying an extra duck stamp to support the purchase of additional wetland habitat. Perpetuate the tradition of waterfowl hunting by mentoring a new hunter. Please get involved!

When Hunting From a Boat

- If you are using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, special state statutes apply. For details, visit **mswp.dps.mo.gov**.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms with the action open, unloaded and cased.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.

If your boat swamps or capsizes:

- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- To help you stay afloat, place an oar under your knees and another behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:



- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities
- Clog the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat
- Plug intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants
- Ruin beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses
- Spread quickly—a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year

When moving from one water body to another:

Clean, Drain and Dry!

- **Clean** all plants, animals and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat, decoys and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

Report sightings to Invasive Species Coordinator, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or call 573-522-4115, ext. 3371. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess and transport ducks, coots and geese in Missouri, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80 from any permit vendor. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents from any permit vendor for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and federal duck stamp are required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over

This permit is available for \$6 from any permit vendor. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and over

To be valid, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) must be signed in ink across the face. The stamps are available for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices and some permit vendors.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order, but they must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education card.

Note: During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education program and display their card before purchasing any firearms hunting permit.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit or a military medical center; must carry orders showing assignment to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit or admissions verification to a military medical center while hunting or purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while hunting. **Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase Missouri small game hunting permits and the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. Buy early to avoid long lines.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card, and pay a \$2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.
- Online anytime using the e-Permits System at **mdc.mo.gov/epermits**. Use your credit card, and pay a \$1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.

Purchase the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) at U.S. Post Offices and selected permit vendors.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization,
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt,
- And hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certificate card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Ducks and Coots

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits:

Coots 15 daily and 30 in possession

Ducks: The **daily bag limit** of ducks is 6 and may include no more than:

Mallards. 4, but no more than 2 females

New! Scaup 4

Wood ducks 3

Hooded mergansers 2

Pintails 2

Redheads 2

Black ducks 1

Canvasbacks 1

Mottled ducks 1

The **possession limit** of ducks is 12 (twice the daily bag limit; varies by species.)

Geese

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits:

The **daily bag limits** of geese are:

Snow, blue and Ross's (all species combined)20

Canada 3

White-fronted 2

Brant 1

The **possession limits** of geese are twice the daily bag limits, except there is no possession limit for snow, blue and Ross's geese.



Snow goose

NOOPADOL PAOTHONG

Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 1–April 30

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect for the 15th consecutive year during spring 2013. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because the geese have rapidly increased in number and are causing damage to portions of the fragile arctic tundra. The Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1–April 30 with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Permit Requirement for Conservation Order

During the Conservation Order residents and nonresidents age 16 and older only need a Conservation Order Permit to chase, pursue and take snow, blue and Ross's geese. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with either a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 10 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and federal duck stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2012, there are two youth-only waterfowl hunting days in each zone for ducks, geese and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- Age 15 or younger;
- Accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Dates: See table on the back cover.

Limits: The daily bag limit for ducks, geese and coots is the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit (varies by species), except there is no possession limit for light geese.

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 8–23 statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- During youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for zones and dates) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- Feb. 10–March 10 statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 6 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

Harvest Survey Needs Your Response

If you receive a Migratory Bird Harvest Survey in the mail, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. The information you provide is important and is considered when establishing hunting seasons each year.



ENJOY MORE TIME HERE

Ever have a lost or forgotten permit spoil your hunting plans? Not anymore. The Conservation Department's e-Permits System lets you buy online, print your permit at home, and have it in hand immediately. You can even reprint the permit if you lose or damage it.

Find out how to use and enjoy e-Permits at
mdc.mo.gov/epermits

Then head to your favorite hunting spot!

Not comfortable with online purchases? You can still buy your fishing, hunting and trapping permits by phone, at any MDC office or from your usual vendor.



Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18 and 19. These intensively managed wetlands provide waterfowl with much-needed resources during migration. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. The Department limits the number of hunting parties on these areas to enhance the quality of the hunt and maintain the integrity of the resource. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation, which guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass and Otter Slough. Quick Draw, an online draw system, was designed to enhance convenience, reduce travel time and expense, and offer hunters more flexibility at selected areas. Quick Draw provides hunters the option of applying twice a week, once for hunts occurring Friday through Monday and once for hunts occurring Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw begins accepting applications a week before the opening of waterfowl season. Hunters who apply and are drawn using Quick Draw receive a guaranteed line position for their hunt. To learn more, visit mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and try their luck in the morning drawing or “poor line.” Twenty percent of the positions at Quick Draw areas and 50 percent of the positions at the remaining areas are set aside for on-site morning drawings. The positions of reservation holders and Quick Draw hunters who do not show up are also included in the on-site drawing.

New! Hunters wishing to reserve disabled-accessible blinds must complete a Hunting Method Exemption prior to their hunt. For forms and additional information, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/9631.

Report Your Bands: www.reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at www.reportband.gov or call 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



JIM RATHER

How Managed Waterfowl Areas Divvy Up Poor-Line Spots

Walk-in hunters trying their luck in the “poor line” will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

All other conservation areas use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are doled out. On some days, there may be more poor-line hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

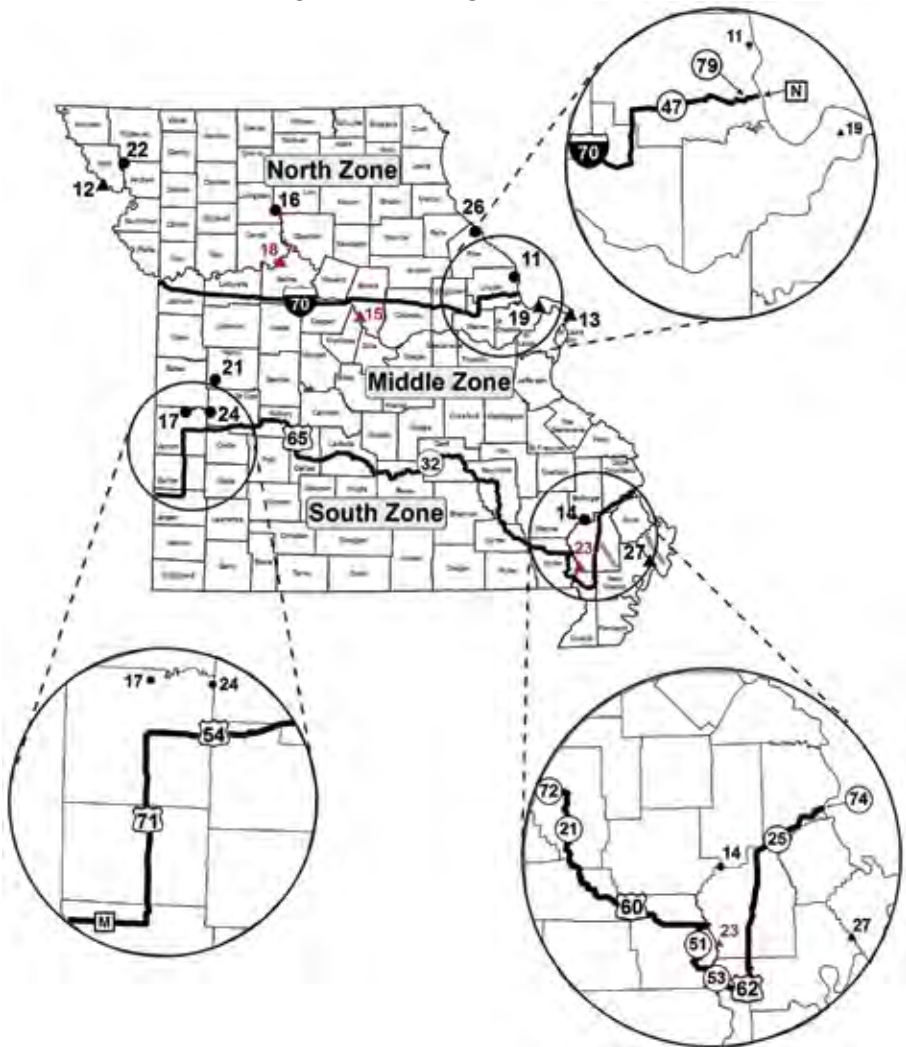
Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to: **mdc.mo.gov/node/303**.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with flyway and state waterfowl managers offers a website containing information about waterfowl status, monitoring, harvest and regulations. Go to **www.flyways.us**.

Hunting Zones and Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

If you are not a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant, you must participate in the daily drawing or hunt with a reservation holder or successful Quick Draw applicant. For details, call the phone numbers noted after the area names or go to mdc.mo.gov/node/3718.



- ▲ At areas denoted by a triangle, every member in the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.
- At areas denoted by a circle, one member of the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.

Areas denoted in red will use the Quick Draw System. For more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.

- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,302 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (7,557 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; water blinds in timber pools; boats provided for timber blinds only; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Water availability may cause a delay in flooding Timber Pools 2, 3 and 8.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,440 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,154 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,096 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,833 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); temporary blinds only; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; federal stamps available, but permits are not; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit www.gpoaccess.gov, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting from a blind or

other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural vegetation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON: No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT: No person shall possess, have in custody or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a common carrier or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of August 2012, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Bismuth-tin | ■ Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel |
| ■ Copper-clad iron | ■ Tungsten-iron-polymer |
| ■ Iron (steel) | ■ Tungsten-matrix |
| ■ Iron-tungsten | ■ Tungsten-polymer |
| ■ Iron-tungsten-nickel | ■ Tungsten-tin-bismuth |
| ■ Spectra | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron |
| ■ Tungsten-bronze (two types) | ■ Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel |



Wood duck

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Tips for Shooting Nontoxic Shot

Of the many approved types of nontoxic shot, each has its own characteristics and benefits. Some, such as steel, are harder, pattern tighter and have more pellets in each load than lead shot. Others are more expensive, but have characteristics similar to lead. Regardless of what you choose, learn how it works with your shotgun before heading out to hunt.

Many hunters underestimate distances and shoot birds out of range. Find your effective range with nontoxic shot by shooting at a target 20 yards away. Once you have that down, increase the distance to your target in small increments. This will help you learn to judge distances and how far you can effectively shoot before you go hunting.

To help hunters become more efficient and ethical harvesters of waterfowl and other game using nontoxic ammunition, the Conservation Department offers “Effective Wingshooting for the Hunter.” These classes were developed based on peer-reviewed scientific research by the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP). Certified instructors will teach participants how to choose the correct choke, load and shot size for different game, how to estimate shooting distances, and how to effectively lead their target. For information, go to mdc.mo.gov/node/3710.

Be a better hunter: Know your effective target range before the season begins!

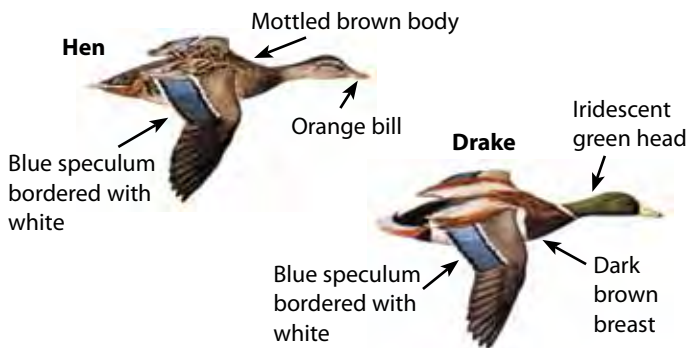
Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl			
Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel* 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3–4 steel 4–6 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2–3 steel 4 bismuth 4–6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1–BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB–BBB steel 1–BB bismuth 2–BB tungsten alloy	50
Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.			
*Note: Small shot (#6) is an excellent choice for finishing wounded waterfowl at close range.			

Duck Identification

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



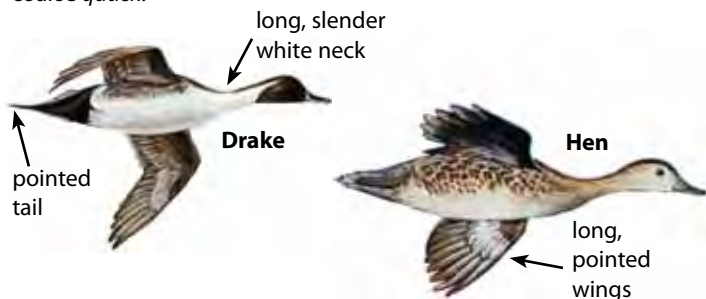
American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



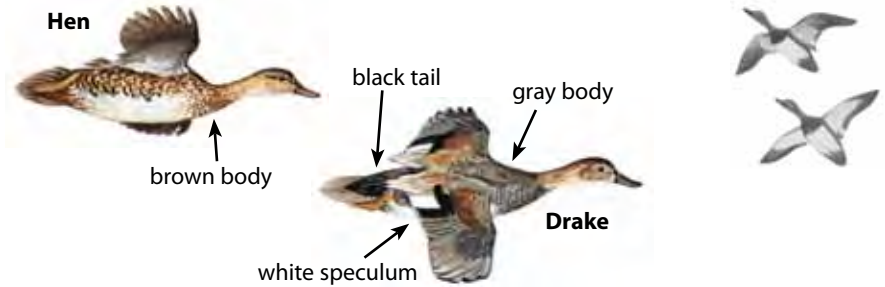
Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



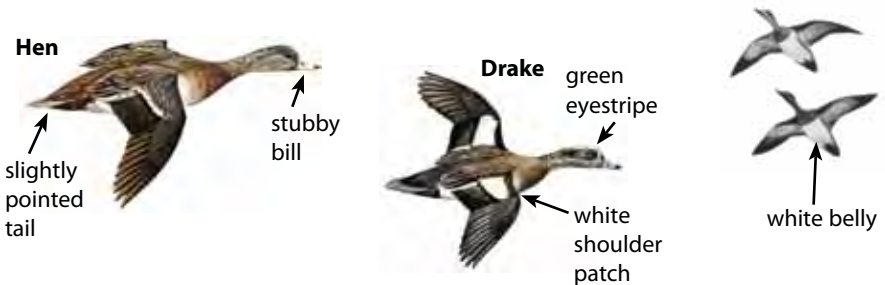
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



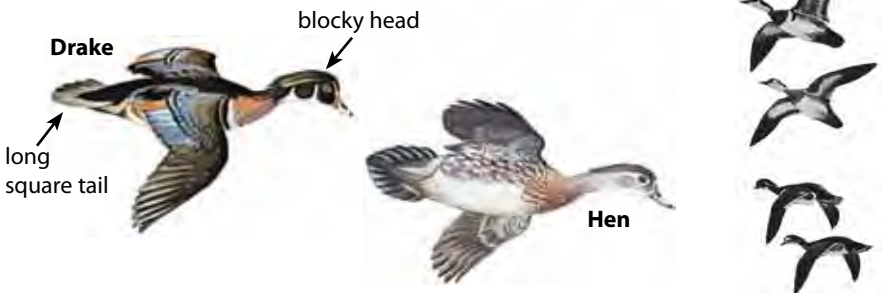
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

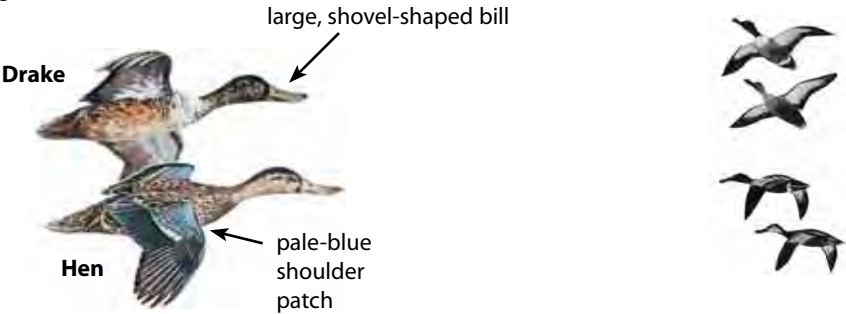
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



Duck Identification

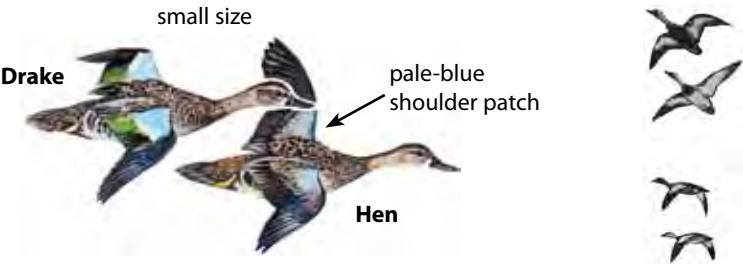
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



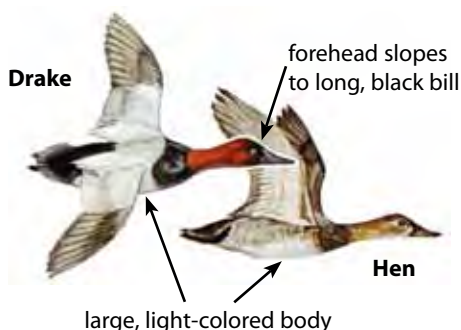
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight and iridescent-green wing patches help identify these ducks.



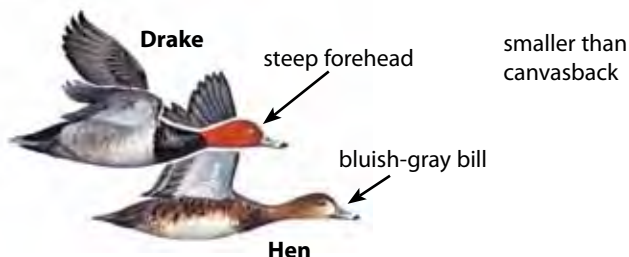
Canvasback ■ 1 in the daily bag

The swiftest of all ducks, the canvasback has a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

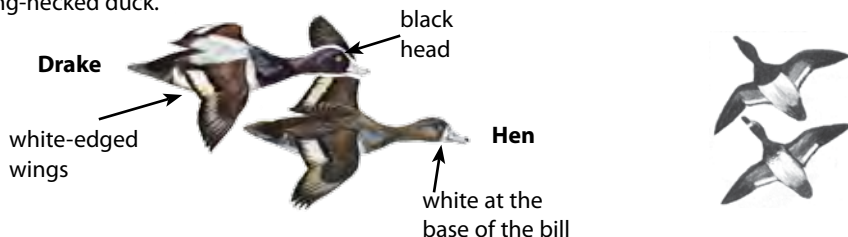
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be easily confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 4 in the daily bag

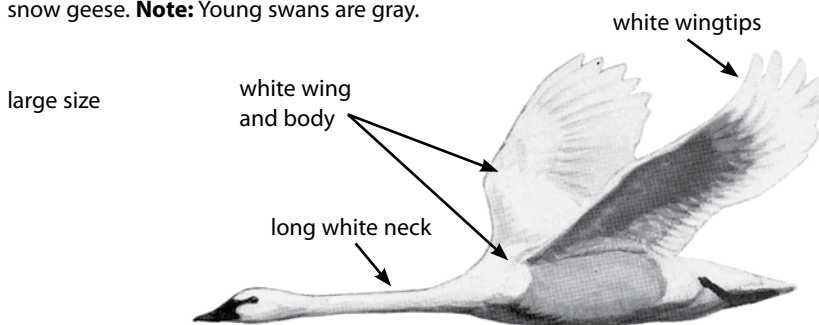
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

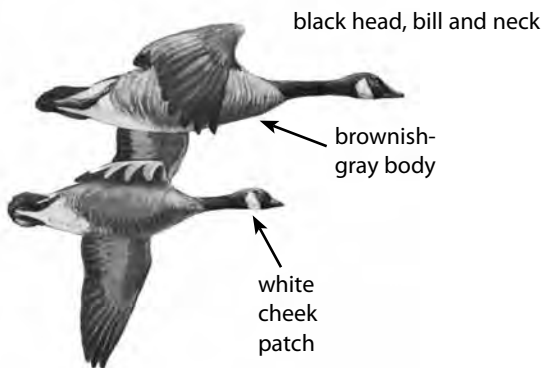
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

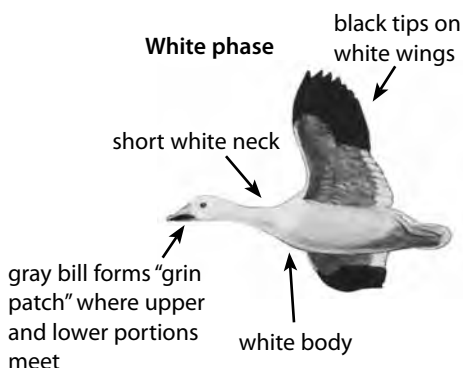
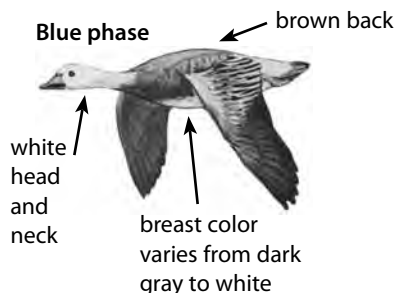
Canada Goose ■ 3 in the daily bag

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



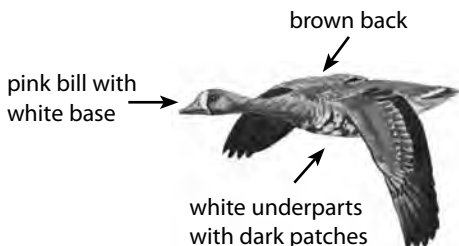
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ 20 in the daily bag

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



White-Fronted Goose ■ 2 in the daily bag

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs and white tails.





Director,
Department of Conservation
 Robert L. Ziehmer

The Conservation Commission

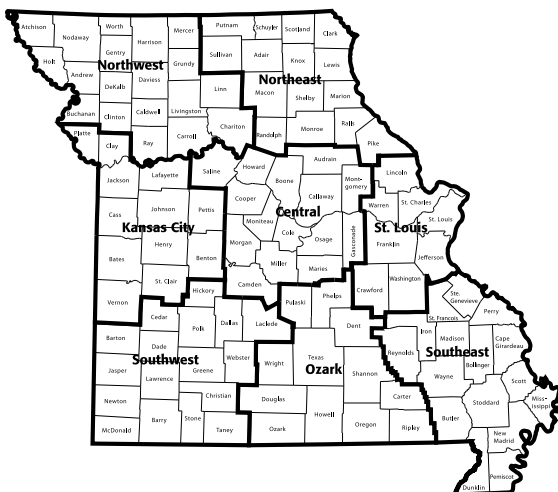
Don C. Bedell
 James T. Blair, IV
 Don R. Johnson
 Becky L. Plattner

**Missouri Department of
 Conservation**
 PO Box 180
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
 573-751-4115

mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
 Columbia, MO 65201
 573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
 Lee's Summit, MO 64082
 816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
 Kirksville, MO 63501
 660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
 573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
 Springfield, MO 65803
 417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
 St. Charles, MO 63304
 636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	OCT. 2012		NOV. 2012		DEC. 2012		JAN. 2013	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	7:05	6:51	7:36	6:08	7:08	4:48	7:26	4:59
2	7:06	6:49	7:37	6:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00
3	7:07	6:48	7:38	6:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:00
4	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47	7:27	5:01
5	7:09	6:45	6:40	5:04	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:02
6	7:10	6:43	6:41	5:03	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:03
7	7:11	6:42	6:42	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04
8	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05
9	7:12	6:39	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06
10	7:13	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07
11	7:14	6:36	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08
12	7:15	6:34	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:09
13	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10
14	7:17	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:11
15	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12
16	7:19	6:28	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:13
17	7:20	6:27	6:53	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:14
18	7:21	6:26	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15
19	7:22	6:24	6:56	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16
20	7:23	6:23	6:57	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:18
21	7:24	6:22	6:58	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:19
22	7:25	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:21	5:20
23	7:26	6:19	7:00	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:21
24	7:27	6:18	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22
25	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54	7:20	5:23
26	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24
27	7:31	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25
28	7:32	6:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27
29	7:33	6:12	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:28
30	7:34	6:10	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:29
31	7:35	6:09			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:30

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 3 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: **www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications**.

2012–2013 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks and Coots	Canada Geese and Brant	White-fronted Geese	Light Geese (snow, blue, Ross's)*
North	Oct. 20–21	Oct. 27–Dec. 25	Oct. 6–14 <i>and</i> Nov. 22–Jan. 31	Nov. 22–Jan. 31	Oct. 27–Jan. 31
Middle	Oct. 27–28	Nov. 3–Jan. 1			
South	Nov. 17–18	Nov. 22–Jan. 20			

*The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 1 through April 30, 2013**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 13 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

(See Page 12 for possession limits.)

Coot Bag Limit

15 coots daily

Duck Bag Limit

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards
(no more than 2 females)

New! 4 scaup

3 wood ducks

2 redheads

2 hooded mergansers

2 pintail

1 canvasback

1 black duck

1 mottled duck

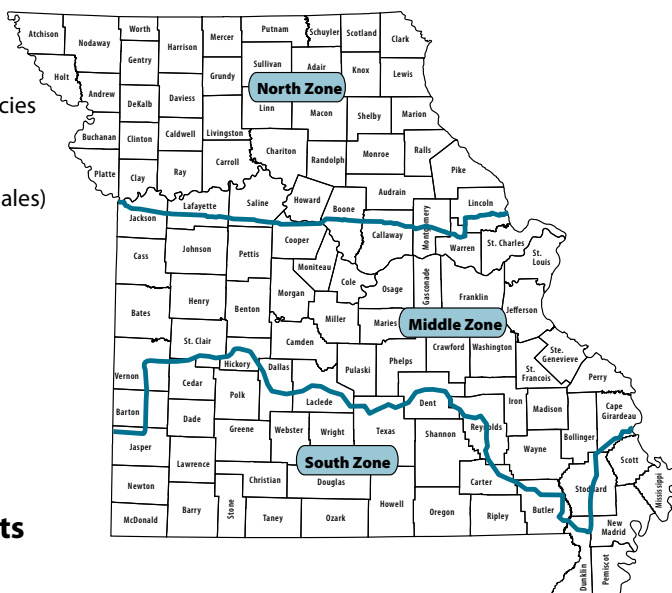
Goose Bag Limits

20 light geese

3 Canada geese

2 white-fronted geese

1 brant



For permit information, see pages 10–13.